

16 AUG 1949

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TOP SECRET

GENERAL

1. Stalin-Kirk interview--In a preliminary report of his 15 August conversation with Stalin, US Ambassador Kirk in Moscow indicates that during a courteous interview lasting 35 minutes the only substantive matters discussed were Lend-Lease and the Voice of America. Stalin asserted that the USSR would live up to its responsibilities under Lend-Lease and expressed the desire, regarding VOA, that Kirk take up the matter with Foreign Minister Vishinsky.

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FAR EAST

2. PHILIPPINES: US "support" for Southeast Asia union urged--US Embassy Manila transmits a report from Ambassador Romulo, Philippine representative to the UN, that he has succeeded in obtaining the support of all Philippine political parties for calling a conference in Baguio to organize a South-east Asia union. Romulo adds that he is now "sounding out" the governments of India, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, Burma, Pakistan and Siam concerning this proposal. Romulo requests authorization from the Department of State to indicate to these countries that the US "regards with sympathy the efforts of the free countries of Southeast Asia to cooperate more closely with one another in promoting their common interests" and suggests that agreement to the proposal would be facilitated if the envoys of the interested countries in Washington were given some direct indication of such a US attitude.

(CIA Comment: Romulo's proposal, designed to achieve economic, political and cultural cooperation in South-east Asia, represents a limited and regional alternative to the Pacific Union proposal which was advanced during the recent Quirino-Chiang-Rhee discussions and which anticipated mutual defense commitments.)

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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